

REMARKS

By this Request for Continued Examination, claims 19, 21-23, 25, 27, 35, 37, 41, 43, and 49 have been amended, claims 20, 24, 26, 28-34, 36, 38-40, 42, 44-47, 48, and 50-52 have been canceled, and claims 53-56 have been added. Claims 19, 21-23, 25, 27, 35, 37, 41, 43, 49, and 53-56 are pending. No new matter has been added.

It is respectfully submitted that the current claims patentably distinguish over the references previously applied against the claims, taken either singly or in combination. Specifically, the applied references fail to teach or suggest features including the two or more thermally insulated segments, two or more devices for heating and cooling the reaction vessel receiving element, wherein each device corresponds to one segment, and wherein the devices are actuated independently of one another to set and maintain different temperatures in two adjacent segments.

Instead, for example, *Gordon et al.*, (U.S. Patent No. 5,601,141) specifically state that cooling is "not totally independent for each module" at column 3, lines 51-53 thereof. Likewise, *Potter et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,819,842) provide a cold block 25 spanning the entire matrix 24 upon which a plurality of heating elements 22 are provided, as depicted in FIG. 2 thereof.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to deposit account 50-2961.

Respectfully submitted,

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